

JOHNNY STARDUST

COUCH -
MY HEAD!

STARDUST
NEEDED A LITTLE
PERSUASION TO
COME ALONG, BOSS!

AIRPORT

WELL, IF
IT PNT'N' OUR
MR. MANTS
HIMSELF!

FORGIVE THE
USE OF FORCE TO
GET YOU ALIVE,
STARDUST. BUT
IT WAS MOST
URGENT!

I HAVE AN
IMPORTANT P
MANTIS IN
PREPARATION
TO -

I TOLD YOUR
PLAYMATES, MANTS!

I DON'T CARE
YOU OR THE
KIND OF
PEOPLE
YOU DO
BUSINESS
WITH!

STARDUST, YOUR MANTIS
DON'T INTEREST
ME IN THE
LEAST!



THE FACT IS I NEED A PILOT
OF UNUSUAL SKILL AND DARING
FOR THREE SPECIAL FLIGHTS.

SINCE YOUR OWN PLANE
WAS DESTROYED I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT BE SWAYED BY
THIS - FOR A PRICE,
OF COURSE.

BUT I DON'T NEED YOU!
JOHNNY MANTS' INTERNAL
WILL REPAIR MY PLANE
AND STARDUST AIR SERVICE
WILL FLY AGAIN!

SORRY! AN "BOSS" HAD
TAKEN CARE OF THAT
POSSIBILITY!

MEANWHILE - OFFICIALS ARE
CHECKING THE RUINS OF
"JOHNNY" PUSHED IT ME

IT WILL
BE TOO LONG
FOR ME

THERE GOES
STARDUST'S LICENSE
AND INSURANCE
POLICY.

CONTINUE

JOHNNY STARDUST

by VERNON RIECK

THAT'S RIGHT, YANKEE!
THERE IS **NO** NEED TO
TAKE TO THE AIR
AFTER ALL!

JOHNNY'S ESCAPE PLAN DEPENDED ON
THE 'COMMIE' MAJOR AGREEING TO FLY...

BUT, **MAJOR**, YOU SAID THERE IS
ONLY **ONE** RADIO STATION YOUR
FORCES HAVEN'T DESTROYED —
AND IT IS **MILES AWAY**...

...HOW CAN **HIS EXCELLENCY**
TELL HIS PEOPLE TO **LAY DOWN**
THEIR **ARMS** AND **ACCEPT** YOUR
GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY IF WE
DON'T **FLY** THERE AT **ONCE**!?

AH! MY TECHNICIAN TELLS ME YOUR
PLANE CARRIES A **LOW** FREQUENCY
RADIO TRANSMITTER...

SO
IT
DOES!

OH,
OH...

HE TELLS ME **IT'S** AIRWAVES
FOLLOW THE CURVATURE OF THE
EARTH AND **CAN** REACH **OUR**
TRANSMITTER MILES AWAY —

—THERE YOUR VOICE WILL BE RELAYED
TO YOUR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TOLD
YOU ARE STILL **ALIVE** AND WILL
SPEAK TO THEM...

OW! THE KING SAID HE'D SOONER
DIE THAN DO THIS! I TOLD THE
MAJOR HE **WOULD** AS PART OF MY
ESCAPE PLAN... WHICH SURE
HAS **BACKFIRED**!

AND NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS, IF
YOU WILL GET IN THE PLANE —
MY TECHNICIAN HAS SIGNALED
ALL IS READY FOR YOU
TO SPEAK...

AH! JUST ONE THING MORE! SHOULD YOU SAY ANYTHING
WRONG... YOUR EXECUTION **WILL** TAKE PLACE...
—INSTANTLY!



JOHNNY STARDUST

by VERNON RIECK

L.A. INTERNATIONAL'S CLOSED IN BY FOG. DOC, - THE POLICE ESCORT IS WAITING AT BURBANK -



-ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BEAT THE FOG -

AS A GREAT BRAIN SURGEON, YOU ARE VALUABLE TO MANY! SHALL WE RISK IT- -OR TURN BACK?

MR. STARDUST, A CHILD, THAT MAY DIE IF I DON'T OPERATE TONIGHT, IS WAITING FOR ME.



I UNDERSTAND, DOC! - HANG ON! HERE WE GO -

OH, OH - FOG'S CLOSING IN ON THE FIELD FAST...

WHILE ON THE GROUND -

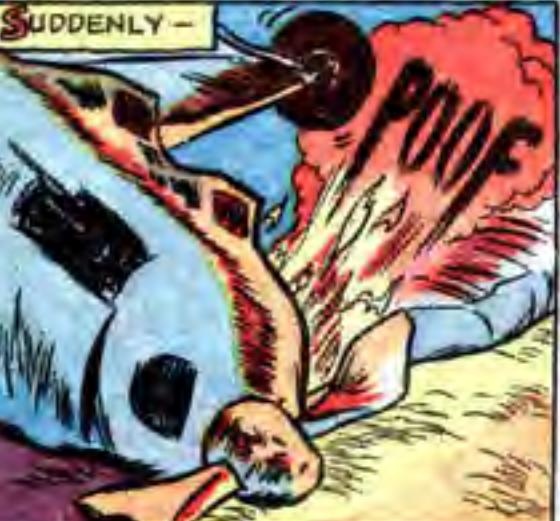
DON'T DO IT, JOHNNY - PULL UP!!

PLEASE!!!

CAN'T SEE THE BLASTED -

JOHNNY!

- SUDDENLY -



OKAY, DOC?

I'M ALIVE -! WHAT MORE CAN I ASK ?

WELL - SHALL WE TOAST MARSHMALLOWS, TIPPY ?

HOW CAN YOU JOKE, JOHNNY? THERE GOES YOUR ONLY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD UP IN FLAMES!

JUST WHAT MR. MANTIS HAS BEEN WAITING FOR LET'S GO !!





JOHNNY STARDUST

WHILE FLYING A FAMED BRAIN SURGEON FOR AN EMERGENCY OPERATION, JOHNNY TRIED TO LAND IN A THICK FOREST. CRACKS UP...

WELL, TIPPY! NO SERIAL NUMBER AND MY BUSINESS GO UP IN SMOKE - LET'S FIND THAT SQUAD CAR AND GET THE BILL ON HIS WAY -

I T. DEARLY REGRET THE LOSS OF YOUR PLANE, MR. STARDUST - IT WOULD BE A SMALL PRICE TO PAY IF YOU CAN SAVE THAT BOY, DOC -

- INSURANCE CAN REPLACE MY PLANE, BUT NOT A HUMAN LIFE! GET GOING NOW - AND GOOD LUCK -

WELL, TELL FLOYD - HOW ABOUT A HOT COFFEE TO RELAX US, SIR?

I WOULD LIKE A LITTLE OF BOTH!

AND THEN I'D BETTER GIVE MY INSURANCE AGENT A CALL -

OH, EDWARD! WE'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU -

COFFEE SHOP

EDWARD'S MANTIS' BUSINESS!

WAIT FOR ME INSIDE, TIPPY! I'LL ONLY BE A MINUTE -

WELL, CHILLER! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW? MR. MANTIS HEARD OF YOUR ABSTINENCE, STARDUST -

MY NEW BAD NEWS IS: THIS TRAVEL CAN'T - HE WISHES TO SEE YOU TONIGHT ABOUT A CERTAIN BUSINESS. PROBABLY

MANTIS DOESN'T CONDUCT THE KIND OF BUSINESS I CARE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ... I DON'T WISH TO SEE HIM NOW OR LATER!

AND ... IT SEEMS MR. STARDUST HAS THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING LATER -

- IT SEEMS MR. STARDUST HAS THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WAS YOU, MR. MANTIS, WHO WISHED TO SEE HIM!

EXCELLENT, CHILLER!



CONTINUED